

This essay will discuss how social policy and legislation is made within the United Kingdom and why it is made. The essay will briefly explain the history of the welfare state. The key topic of this essay will be age, with a focus on young adults and the policies and legislation that relate to this group.

To understand how legislation and policy is made, an understanding of how the creation of the welfare state, as it is known, must be outlined. It was first considered during World War Two (1939-45) by the economist, civil servant and social reformer, William Beveridge, in his 1942 report *Social Insurances and Allied Services* (Inter-Departmental Committee on Social Insurance and Allied Services, 1942). Beveridge was a Liberal and he believed that the Welfare State was a basic human right (Renwick, 2017). During this time, Beveridge believed that the nineteenth century had five main evils in British society. They were Ignorance, Disease, Idleness, Squalor and Want. Between 1945 and 1951, Beveridge had looked at these issues and brought them to the attention of the British Government, which helped in the creation of legislation and policy specific to helping British citizens.

An example of Beveridge's ideas being put into practice would be the birth of the National Health Service, more commonly known as the NHS, which gave free health care to all British Citizens. Or the National Insurance Act (1945) which gave unemployment pay, up to six months and sick pay until you were able to return to work (Revenue Benefits, no date) (The National Archives, no date). These can be seen as radical changes and a great improvement of the care and welfare of the people within Britain.

Many of the reforms helped many families who were stuck in absolute poverty and relative poverty. Absolute poverty meaning that a person is deprived of their basic human needs, such as shelter, food, clean drinking water, sanitation, health care, education and basic information (Mack, 2016). Relative poverty assumes a person has the above basic needs met, it instead looks at the lack of material properties that a person is lacking; such as a television, mobile phone, being excluded from social events, and not being able to afford public transport (Mack, 2016). These scales of identifying poverty show a strong link to Abraham Maslow's historic paper *A Theory Of Human Motivation* (1943), where he introduced his theory (pyramid) of a 'Hierarchy Of Needs'. This diagram is made out of five layers, raising from the base up, these are: Physiological needs, Safety needs, Belongingness and love needs, Esteem needs and finishing with Self Actualization. This theory is still used in modern day life with more of

an emphasis on the three, four and five layers of the pyramid (Alcock, 2016, p1-13) (TJ Training Journal, 2017). The first two layers of Maslow's 'pyramid' can be seen as basic needs, if these are not met, then a person can be seen as being in poverty.

The key figures associated with the development of the welfare state, understood that poverty was a major issue within British society and needed to be addressed. These social issues were addressed by using social policy as a practice to promote the welfare of citizens and social wellbeing. It also attempts to change a certain situation in real life. When a policy is made, the acting bodies must think about who this policy will affect and what issues they will have to consider.

Policy is what a government official wishes to achieve by bringing it to the attention of the acting government. A policy document is not law but will often influence the acting government to create legislation from its idea.

Legislation or as it is also known as Statutory Law. Which has been provided by the acting government authorities. In order to regulate, to authorise, to sanction or to grant/restrict the public. In key terms it defines the governing legal principles. Its key goal is to protect the safety of the public (Oxford Lib Guide, 2018).

Legislation has changed regarding to age and social developments, an example of this is the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and its refinement and update into The Equality Act 2010. It revamps the previous legislation which guarantees a consistency in what companies must treat their employees within their workplace, so it can be an equal work environment. They must make sure it complies within the United Kingdom's law. The Equality Act shields employees from discrimination, harassment and victimisation. This links in with age, because the employer might target younger or older employees. For example, if any establishment has a training policy excluding employees aged over sixty or higher from applying for a programme. In addition, this is expected to become a discriminatory action (ASAS Working For Everyone, 2017) (Equality And Human Rights Commission, 2017). A case example of this would be when the Government brought in The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act on the 12 March 2014. The act will have more of an effective solution to tackle Anti-social Behaviour. The Act aims at vandalism, litter, abusive neighbours and public drunkenness. The reason this Act came

into power was because the victims were feeling unsafe in their own homes, communities and in their local neighbourhoods. Which allowed the people of the community to have a voice. The government gave them two options, one is called community trigger which allows the victims to demand action which starts with the review of the case. The second is community remedy which is out of court punishment for low level anti- social behaviour and low-level crime (Police.UK, 2014). One of the criticisms of this act is that young adults. Are having their youth clubs budget cut or even being closed down. Which entices gang and anti-social behaviour within their communities (Gov.uk, 2014) (The guardian, 2011).

One case of knife crime is the story of Amanda from North Yorkshire. When she was eighteen Amanda was sentenced to twenty-two months in Cornton Vale Prison For women for Possession of a lethal weapon. Which came under The Criminal Justice And Courts Act (Gov.uk, 2015) Before Amanda got arrested she had a promising future in her personal education. Before Amanda got sentenced she wanted to go to university to study social work. But when her Grandmother died, which in turn led to Amanda becoming distressed. This was because she lost her primary care system, which destroyed three parts of her Maslow Pyramid (1943). she was also looking after her grandmother which made her an informal carer (No knives, Better lives, no date).

Informal Care is provided to the young, the deprived, elderly or the sick. it is provided by relatives, friends, neighbours rather than by trained or certified health care specialists. Which in turn cost the individual an expected cost of thirty-one thousand and, two hundred a year on average for a residential care home. But the care cost will rise over forty-three thousand and, seven hundred a year if the individual needs the necessity care. It will also depend on your location or if you need a specialised nurse such as a dementia care. The criticism of this is that the new working poor can't afford these prices (Bingham, The Telegraph, 2016). In Wales it will cost the average person five hundred and sixty six pounds a week without a nurse; and seven hundred and sixty-nine pound for a care home with nursing staff (Paying For Care A Non- For – Profit Company, 2016) (Bingham, Carers UK Making Life Better For Carers, no date).

which has had an ever more increasing effect on the elderly population within the United Kingdom. For example, one in eight adults roughly six point five million people are informal carers. It is theorised that by twenty thirty-seven that the overall numbers of informal carers within the United Kingdom will increase to nine million. (Carers, 2014)

The local Government tried to help her by providing housing for Amanda; which shows us that the legislation of the welfare state still is increasingly relevant for the society of today. As the local Government tried an attempt to help Amanda but failed. The question is where do we draw the line within self-responsibility or should the state do more to help the youth of today?

Because of this Amanda then fell in with a bad crowd; which led her to stop studying and started drinking heavily. Then Amanda lost touch with the rest of her family. Which isolated her from a positive support system.

This theory by Erik Erickson links in with the case of Amanda; his theory of Personal Development is based on 8 stages. He states that the sustained personality of a person development is predetermined. During each stage of a human's personality development will take part of a psychosocial predicament. which may have an overall positive or negative effect for the development of a human's personality during their life time. For Erikson (1963) these certain predicaments are of a psychosocial nature. Because they will include a psychosocial inevitability of the individual. Such as a psycho disagreeing with the needs of culture. For it to be successful the theory must complete each of its phases for a positive outcome. In a healthy personality according to Erikson (1963) the acquisition of the rudimentary qualities. In which the ego can use to resolve the subsequent predicaments.

The stage that Amanda is in is stage six, which is Intimacy vs Isolation whom Erickson based it on love. The age is between eighteen to forty. This stage is set throughout adolescence and clarifies the change from being a youth to becoming an adult. It is a very important stage and starts to look at the future. In terms of an essential relationship within the families and housing. Overall the individual desires to belong to

a culture and to have that feeling of belonging in which humans need. (Franz, E, C and White, M, K, 1985,p.35) (Simply Psychology, 2018)

This is because within the United Kingdom the knife crime law states that for possession of a knife will have a prison sentence leading up to five years in a prison; even if the weapon is not used. If we go off Sonja Star study which shows us that if Amanda was a man she would have gotten a much harder sentence. (Huffpost, 2012) The home office has a set of procedures in which, is including a violent crime task force who have increased the sentences for carrying lethal weapons or acid on their person. To combat this the Government has placed thirteen million pounds into a trust fund relationship to support the young adults. That stand at risk from gang manipulation and a further forty million to a youth investments account for the underprivileged areas like South London and South Wales (Independent, 2018).

To conclude within this essay, it has been explained the brief history of the British Welfare State. What is legislation and how it is made, how social policy is made and put into effect within the United Kingdom. As we can see that our Government needs a better policy and legislation for long term anti knife crime. Within the youth of today (Independent, 2018) to improve the problems within the youth communities of today. An example of this would be the charity organization known as Princes Trust which is helping young adults across the nation. Who are in or leaving care or who are facing such issues like, mental health, homelessness or those who have been in trouble with the law. They have shown promising results by returning, one point four billion through there help for the disadvantaged young adults over the last ten years across the United Kingdom. One of their programs is when they go into the schools and teach life skills to the special need classes (Princes Trust, 2018). Which in turn gave the classes more confidence when it came to finding employment or going on to higher education and building their, social skills within a group and their person.

The other programmes are that the police are rolling out is a anti knife prevention for young adults in schools across England. This was because of the mass stabbings within the youth communities in places such as London and Liverpool. If we compare this to Wales which has roughly the same amount of knife crime, but the policy and legislation of the police is not implemented on, the same level of knife prevention within the youth community of Wales (ITV, 2017) (M.A.L.S Merseyside, 2018).

Which is strange because of the Well- Being of The Future Generations Act of Wales (2015). Whom this Act covers by having the Chief For A Police Area and The Police and Crime Commissioner signed onto this Act. Which is only implemented in Wales (Llywodraeth Cymru Wales Government. 2016) (In Brief By Senedd Research, National Assembly For Wales, 2016).

The Act will make the public bodies listed onto it think more about the long-term goals and to work better with people and communities of Wales. One of their main goals is to look out for each other and to prevent any problems that will pop up. Which in turn will lead to more of a joint- up approach to tackle them (Llywodraeth Cymru Wales Government, 2016).

A criticism of this essay is that there will always be problems within our cultures and within youth communities. We can see that the police are trying their hardest to stop it by bringing in the knife Bins around the United Kingdom to try and lower the risk (ITV, 2018). In hindsight everyone must do better as a nation. Especially within our culture, social policy and legislation. Because we will need a long-term approach to solve these problems.

Page Break

Reference List

- Alcock, P. et al. (2016) *Wright. The student's Companion to Social Policy*. Chichester: Wiley Blackwell. Fifth edition. Oxford: John Wiley & Son ltd.
- ASAS Working For Everyone. (2017) *Equality And Discrimination Understand The Basic*. Available at: http://www.acas.org.uk/media/pdf/1/0/Equality_discrim_understand_basics_Nov.pdf (Accessed: 29/10/2018)
- Bingham. J, (2016). *Working Families Are The 'New Poor', Says Britain's Leading Economic Think-Tank*. available At: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/19/working-families-are-the-new-poor-says-britainsleading-economic/> (Accessed 03/11/18)
- Carers UK Making Life Better For Carers, (2015). *Facts & Figures*. Available At: https://www.carersuk.org/images/Facts_about_Carers_2015.pdf (accessed: 03/11/18)
- Corbyn, C. (2016) *In Brief By Senedd Research, National Assembly For Wales*. Available At: <https://seneddresearch.blog/2016/03/22/the-well-being-of-future-generations-wales-act-2015-what-is-it-and-what-does-it-mean-for-wales/> (Accessed: 11/11/2018)
- Dearden, L. (2018). *Why Is Knife Crime Increasing In England And Wales*. Available At <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/violent-knife-crime-rise-stabbing-murders-reasons-increase-london-why-a8326171.html> (Accessed: 03/11/18)
- Dearden, L. (2018). *Acid To Be Defined As 'Highly Dangerous Weapon' For First Time To Impose Tougher Prison Sentences*. Available At

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/acid-attacks-uk-sentences-law-change-carrying-threatening-possessing-corrosive-substances-a8233516.html> (Accessed: 03/11/18)

Equality And Human Rights Commission, (2018). What Is The Equality Act?. Available At: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/equality-act-2010/what-equality-act> (Accessed: 4/10/2018).

FLETCHER, L. (2018). Knife Crime Prevention In Merseyside. Available At : <https://malsmerseyside.co.uk/knife-crime-prevention-in-merseyside/> (Accessed: 03/11/18)

Franz, E, C and White, M, K. (1985) Conceptualizing Gender In Personality Theory And Research, 53(2), pp. DOI: <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/9a8a/69b75111f3b90fe41d10fc9a8413515334e5.pdf> (Accessed At:11/11/2018)

Giddens and Anthony and Giffiths, S. (2006) Sociology. Fifth Edition. Cambridge: Polity, Print

Gwent Police. (2018). Knife Amnesty Underway In Gwent Police Area. Available At: <https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2018-02-13/knife-amnesty-underway-by-gwent-police/> (Accessed: 03/11/18)

Harris, B. (2006), '20th century British History', volume 17, oxford university press / Uk Home Office, (2017). Gov.uk, Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Anti-social behaviour powers Statutory guidance for frontline professionals. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/679712/2017-12-13 ASB Revised Statutory Guidance V2.1 Final.pdf (Accessed On: 28/10/2018).

Home Office, (2018). Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2016-2018. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748598/hate-crime-1718-hosb2018.pdf (Accessed : 08/11/2018)

Huffpost, (2012). Men Sentenced to Longer Prison Terms Than Women For Same Crimes, Study Says. Available at: https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/11/men-women-prison-sentence-length-gender-gap_n_1874742.html?guccounter=1 (Accessed: 08/11/2018)

Inter-Departmental Committee on Social Insurance and Allied Services (1942) Social Insurance and Allied Services. London: HMSO (Cm6404)

ITV. (2017) Police Talk School Children About Knife Crime. Available At: <https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/update/2017-09-30/police-talk-to-school-children-about-knife-crime/> (Accessed: 03/11/18)

Llywodraeth Cymru Wales Government. (2016). Well-Being Of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Available At: <https://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/?lang=en> (Accessed: 03/11/18)

Mack, J.(2016) PSE Poverty And Social Exclusion Social, Stimulating Debate. Available At: <http://www.poverty.ac.uk/definitions-poverty> (Accessed: 11/11/2018)

Mack, J.(2016) PSE Poverty And Social Exclusion Social, Stimulating Debate. Available At: <http://www.poverty.ac.uk/definitions-poverty/absolute-and-overall-poverty> (Accessed: 11/11/2018)

Mcleod, S. (2018) Simply Psychology, Available At: <https://www.simplypsychology.org/Erik-Erikson.html> (Accessed: 11/11/2012)

Ministry of Justice, (2015). Repeat Knife Offenders Face New Minimum Prison Term. Available At <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/repeat-knife-offenders-face-new-minimum-prison-term> (Accessed: 03/11/18)

No Knives Better Lives. (2012) AMANDS'S STORY. Available at: <http://noknivesbetterlives.com/young-people/real-life-stories/amanda> (Accessed: 03/11/18)

No knives, Better Lives, No Date. Sharp Facts. Available At: <https://noknivesbetterlives.com/images/uploads/resources/SharpFacts.pdf> (Accessed: 03/11/18) x

Oxford Lib Guide. (2018) UK Legislation. Available At: <https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/c.php?g=422832&p=2887379> (Accessed: 11/11/2018)

Police.UK. (2014) New Anti-Social Behaviour Powers Come Into Effect. Available At: <https://www.police.uk/news/new-anti-social-behaviour-powers-come-effect/> (Accessed 19/11/2018)

Princes Trust. (2018). How We Support Young People. Available At <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/about-the-trust> (Accessed: 03/11/18)

Renwick, C. (2017) *Bread For All The Origins Of The Welfare State*. London: Penguin.

Revenue Benefits, no date. Child Benefits And Guardians allowance Where It All Started. Available At: <https://revenuebenefits.org.uk/child-benefit/policy/where-it-all-started/> (Accessed: 10/11/2018)

The National Archives, No Date. 1940s Origins Of The Welfare State. Available At: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/cabinetpapers/alevelstudies/1940-origins-welfare-state.htm> (Accessed At: 10/11/2018)

Topping, A. (2011) Fare Well Youth Clubs, Hello Street Life- and Warfare. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2011/jul/29/young-people-gangs-youth-clubs-close> (Accessed: 08/11/2018)

Wilcock, W. (2018). Government Doubles Funding For Youth Crime Prevention As Violence Soars. Available At: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/government-youth-funding-rising-crime-murder-robbery-knife-statistics-england-wales-a8469011.html> (Accessed: 03/11/18)